Increasing access to knowledge

1350. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is increasing the access to knowledge and strengthen people's participation in education;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the role of NGOs and State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Government is continuously engaged in widening the access to education. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, a national programme for the Universalisation of elementary education is being implemented in partnership with State Governments. Community partnership is central to this programme. The National Literacy Mission aims at achieving 75% national literacy for non-literates in the age group of 15-35 by the year 2007. Government also encourages the use of open and distance learning methods through the activities of National Institute of Open Schools and of open universities at the Central and State levels. Several schemes are run through Non-Governmental Organisations including schemes for girls hostels, ICT in Education etc.

Standard of universities

1351. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of universities in India, category-wise, namely Central, State and Deemed, with details of grants released to them during the last three years, year-wise, for upgradation of their quality of teaching/training of students, diversification, etc.;

(b) the number of universities permitted to tie up with foreign universities, including twinning system, for professional courses, with details of mechanism for monitoring of quality;

(c) whether in a recent report, not even a single Indian university figured in the top 200 universities in the world; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the measures contemplated for enhancing the standard of Indian universities to International level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) There are 24 Central Universities, 229 State Universities and 99 Deemed Universities as on date. A statement showing the grants released by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to eligible universities during last three years is enclosed *(See* below).

(b) Only the All India Council for Technical Education has framed regulations for entry and operation of foreign universities/institutions imparting technical education in India. A legislative proposal for entry and operation of foreign educational institutions in the country is presently under consideration.